

**RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM**  
**Rhode Island State Planning Council**

Friday, November 12, 2015  
RIDOA, Conference Room A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**I. Attendance**

1. Members Present

Mr. Michael DiBiase, Chair	Director, Rhode Island Department of Administration
Ms. Lisa Vura-Weis, Vice-Chair	Deputy Chief, Office of the Governor
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Mr. Peter Alviti	Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Ms. Meredith Brady	Representing Peter Alviti, Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Non Profit Community Development Representative
Mr. Grover Fugate	Executive Director, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
Mr. Ryan Gardiner	Representing Mr. Thomas Mullaney, Rhode Island Department of Administration, Budget
Mr. Doug McLean	Representing Mr. L. Vincent Murray, RI League of Cities & Towns, Government Official Representative
Ms. Ana Novais	Representing Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director Rhode Island Department of Health
Ms. Sandy O'Connor	Governor's Designee
Ms. Amy Pettine	Representing Mr. Raymond Studley, Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Ms. Lisa Primiano	Representing Ms. Janet Coit, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Ms. Amy Rainone	Representing Ms. Barbara Fields, Executive Director, Rhode Island Housing
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Daniel Beardsley, Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns
Mr. Girard Visconti, Esq.	Large Business Representative
Mr. Michael Walker	Representing Stefan Pryor, Secretary of Commerce
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

2. Members Absent

Ms. Jeanne Boyle	President's Designee, Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns
Ms. Ana Cano-Morales	Public Member
Mr. Roy Coulombe	Public Member
Ms. Marion Gold	Commissioner, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
Mr. Marcus Mitchell	Small Business Representative
Ms. Bonnie Nickerson	Director, Providence Department of Planning and Development
Mr. M. James Riordan	Public Member

Mr. Mathies Santos

Chair, Rhode Island Housing Resource Commission

3. Staff Present

Ms. Kimberly Crabill

RI Statewide Planning Program

Mr. Jared Rhodes

RI Statewide Planning Program

Ms. Karen Scott

RI Statewide Planning Program

Mr. Chris Witt

RI Statewide Planning Program

4. Guests Present

Ms. Teresa Crean

URI Coastal Resource Center/Rhode Island Sea Grant

Mr. Malcolm Spaulding

URI/Ocean Engineering

Mr. Peter Garino

Rhode Island Department of Transportation

## II. Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

Chairman DiBiase called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. Approval of October 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes – for action

Chairman DiBiase asked for a motion to approve the minutes of October 8, 2015. Ms. Rainone moved to approve the minutes of October 8, 2015 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cola. There being no discussion, the following members voted aye: Alviti, Cola, Flynn, Fugate, Gardiner, Novais, O'Connor, Pettine, Primiano, Rainone, Visconti, and Walker. Chairman DiBiase abstained. Not voting - Mr. Peder Schaefer and Mr. Doug McLean. Mr. Wolf and Ms. Vura-Weis were not present at this time. There were no nay votes.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items – for discussion

There was none.

Mr. Walker departed.

4. FY 17- 26 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation Package – for action

Chairman DiBiase introduced Karen Scott who presented the attached TIP Solicitation Package. Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Wolf arrived at 9:11 a.m.

Ms. Lisa Vura-Weis arrived at 9:18 a.m.

Chairman DiBiase gave some comments on the process and invited Department of Transportation (DOT) and Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) representatives to say a few words. In response DOT Director Alviti announced his goal of realigning the states needs with a realistic funding mechanism and construction schedule through the Department's proposed ten year plan and Rhode Works Tolling proposal.

Following his comments Ms. Pettine overviewed RIPTA's own ten year strategic planning initiative and pointed out that the proposed reduction in Federal Funding could make the challenge that much more difficult.

Mr. Schaefer asked what the difference in this proposed TIP process is from a municipal perspective as opposed to what was done last time. Ms. Scott pointed out that the major difference is the provision of a draft set of projects from DOT that is provided in the solicitation package to each municipality.

Chairman DiBiase requested a motion to approve which was given by Ms. Novais and seconded by Mr. Alviti.

Under discussion:

Ms. Rainone questioned if the scoring criteria from 2013 will be utilized this time. Ms. Scott responded that they wouldn't and that they have been updated as included in the packet under guiding principles.

There being no further discussion the following members voted aye: Alviti, Cola, Flynn, Fugate, Gardiner, Novais, O'Connor, Pettine, Primiano, Rainone, Visconti, Vura-Weis, and Wolf. Chairman DiBiase abstained. Not voting - Mr. Peder Schaefer, Mr. Doug McLean, and Mr. Michael Walker. There were no nay votes.

Mr. Alviti departed at 10 a.m. and was subsequently represented by Ms. Meredith Brady.

5. STORMTOOLS Informational Presentation - *for discussion*

Chairman DiBiase introduced Mr. Fugate, Ms. Crean, and Mr. Spaulding who delivered the attached STORMTOOLS presentation. Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Schaefer questioned whether the team was working with the National Flood Insurance Program to integrate the findings of the STORMTOOLS system into their flood insurance rate maps. Mr. Fugate responded that they were.

Ms. Rainone asked if the group is available to do training of state agency staff on STORMTOOLS. Mr. Fugate stated that their intent is to do 1 or 2 sessions for state agencies but there is a need to find a dedicated funding source to ensure long term access to training.

Mr. Wolf noted that FM Global or the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust, who insure municipalities, might be interested in participating.

Ms. Cola noted that this information has huge implications for affordable housing provision. She went on to explain that folks with lower incomes, in particular, are very vulnerable to increasing insurance rates.

Ms. Pettine next pointed out the huge learning curve that RIPTA faced with the Newport Gateway Initiative.

6. 2016 Meeting Schedule – for action

Chairman DiBiase requested a motion to approve the 2016 meeting schedule as presented. Ms. Cola made the first motion and it was seconded by Mr. Fugate. There being no further discussion the following members voted aye: Brady, Cola, Flynn, Fugate, Gardiner, Novais, O'Connor, Pettine, Primiano, Rainone, Visconti, Vura-Weis, and Wolf. Chairman DiBiase abstained. Not voting - Mr. Peder Schaefer, Mr. Doug McLean, and Mr. Michael Walker. There were no nay votes.

7. 2015 Committee Nominations, Proposed "Slate of Names" - for introduction

Mr. Flynn introduced the proposed slate of names as contained in the agenda supplement.

8. Associate Director's Report – for discussion

Mr. Flynn addressed the following items under the Associate Director's report:

- Comp Plan Standards Rules and Regulations Hearings
- Pending Retirement

Discussion occurred as follows:

Director DiBiase first commented that it has been a privilege to work with Mr. Flynn directly over the last few months. He next noted that Mr. Flynn is a person of tremendous integrity which is really important in a job as the gatekeeper for real estate development, which is not an easy task. He also noted that Mr. Flynn is extremely conscientious and cares deeply about the work that he does. The Director closed by thanking Mr. Flynn for his dedication to his daily work.

Mr. Wolf commented that Mr. Flynn has been a real treasure for state government and for the State of Rhode Island as a whole. From a GrowSmart RI perspective, Mr. Flynn has been a great partner and his combination of vision and analytical precision will be missed.

Ms. Primiano next spoke on behalf of the Department of Environmental Management and Director Coit, stating that they have appreciated Mr. Flynn's guidance on matters relative to State Properties Committee, comprehensive planning, legislation, and so many other things. We have a lot of respect for him and will miss him terribly. In closing, Ms. Primiano noted that they wish him all the best.

Mr. Fugate began his comments by stating that when he learned that Mr. Flynn was going to be hired as the Assistant Director, he knew that the right person had been chosen for the job. He next noted that Mr. Flynn has proven that to be true over the years. Mr. Fugate stated the word integrity comes to mind when he thinks of Mr. Flynn as he has been open and accessible. In closing, Mr. Fugate stated that he and Rhode Island Coastal Resources will miss Mr. Flynn and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Ms. Rainone commented that Mr. Flynn has been a great friend to affordable housing in the state and a great partner at the state level. It has been great working with him. Mr. Flynn was able to show integrity and present a rationale face through some irrational discussions. The state was lucky to have him especially through this last year. Mr. Flynn will be greatly missed.

9. Announcements

Mr. Wolf announced that GrowSmart RI and the Coalition for Transportation Choices is hosting a forum on the future of Transit in Rhode Island on December 1.

Mr. Fugate announced that there will also be an all-day conference on December 1<sup>st</sup> at Roger Williams University to discuss the legal ramifications of Sea Level Rise.

10. Adjourn

Chairman DiBiase asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fugate motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Flynn. There being no further discussion the following members voted aye: Brady, Cola, Flynn, Fugate, Gardiner, Novais, O'Connor, Pettine, Primiano, Rainone, Visconti, Vura-Weis, and Wolf. Chairman DiBiase abstained. Not voting - Mr. Peder Schaefer, Mr. Doug McLean, and Mr. Michael Walker. There were no nay votes. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Flynn", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Flynn  
Secretary